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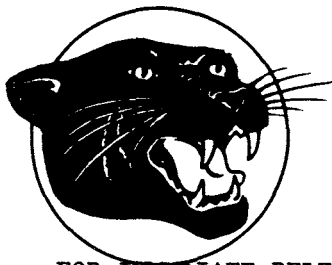
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

Dec. 13, 1983

LS-AS-Women's BB

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's lady Panther basketball team will attempt to top the .500 mark before the Christmas break hosting Ball State Saturday (Dec. 17). Game time is 7:30 in Lantz Gym.

Following a 1-4 start the Panthers have bounced back to win three straight over Butler, SIU-Edwardsville and Chicago State averaging 85 points in this stretch.

Ball State, a member of the Mid-American conference, is 1-3 defeating Indiana State but losing to Indiana, Dayton and Wisconsin.

After Saturday's contest the lady Panthers will be idle for nearly three weeks before opening Gateway Collegiate Conference play on January 5 at Indiana State.

Coach Barbara Hilke, who has started eight different people, settled in on the same five during this three game winning streak. Sophomore Sue Hynd (Ottawa) is at center, juniors Stacy Cook (Lincoln-Illinois Central CC) and Toni Collins (Lincoln-Jamaica/Sidell) are the forwards and sophomore Melanie Hatfield (Lawrenceburg, IN) and senior Jodi Corson (Baggs, WY) out front.

"Ball State will be a difficult opponent. They're in a good league and have played some tough competition," said Hilke.

"We're playing better. I'm pleased the way Collins and Cook have played together . . . Cook inside and Collins on the wing. They have complemented each other well.

"And our guards, particularly with Beth (Sass) and Lori (Conine) coming off the bench, have kicked the ball out well on the break," said Hilke.

"Sue (Hynd) had a great game at SIU-Edwardsville . . . she hit 27 points and made 10-11 from the field. Corson is the only senior playing much so we're still young and hopefully will continue to improve as the conference gets going."

Collins, a 6-0 all-conference player, leads the team with a 12.1 scoring average, 5.9 rebound average and 33 assists.

Conine, who has come off the bench to lead the fast break, is next at 11.7 points and tops with 28 steals. Hynd is averaging 10.2 and has only 11 turnovers, fewest of any of the starters.